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Development**
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Media Release

Taung First Livestock auction nets more than R2,5m as part of Village, Township and Small Dorpie Initiative (VTSD)

Tuesday, 21 February 2017

Taung: About 364 large stock and 259 small stock was sold during the Taung livestock Auction Launch held today in Taung Greater Municipality, bringing a total turnover of about R2,5m for the day. The Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) kick-started the Auction sales pen and hosted the first ever auction to address continuous enormous challenges faced by farmers in relation to market access for the livestock.

Located near the N18 road, about few kilometres from town, the Taung auction sales pen is intended to ensure that farmers are able to access markets at a reasonable distance. The auction pens infrastructure stands to empower and improve livestock production quality and standards from surrounding Villages, Townships and Small Dorpies around Taung.

Speaking about the initiative, MEC for READ, Manketsi Tlhape said it was important for the department to fulfil the mandate of the 5th Provincial Administration by implementing the five concretes to Rebrand, Reposition and Renew Bokone Bophirima.

key concretes. She said the launch was realised through the Saamtrek-Saamwerk approach. "The department heeded the call when communities engaged us to request that the auction pen should be refurbished and used. We did not want to do that alone so we had to ensure that the livestock bought here is improved," she said.

She further alluded: "We started with livestock improvement programme because we wanted our people to bring improved animals to the auction. Our programmes such as Sire Subsidy and Nguni have benefitted the communities in this District."

MEC Tlhape encouraged all stakeholders including the Taung Livestock Auction Farmers Association to participate and highlighted that the effective implementation auction will encourage all farmers to work collectively and improve the quality of life in the Province.

Hon. Premier, Supra Mahumapelo encouraged local farmers to be part of the auction as that carries potential to change their lives. He said it was important for Departments to ensure implementation of all their planned activities. "We have encouraged Departments to come up with plans on how they contribute to the socio-economic transformation of the local people. We are happy that the READ Department continues to do that diligently." The Hon. Premier said there were ways to bring transformation in villages. He committed government to continue providing support to the local communities.

The Department launched the auction sales pen as part of the 9th Provincial Extension and Advisory Conference and Outreach. The conference's intension was to also ensure that all extension related requirements in terms of operational matters are presented to the Extension staff to enable them to improve on their performance as well as to expose communities to the services offered by READ.

The Taung auction is the second to be launched within the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District following the success of the Driefontuin Livestock Auction launched in 2015 at a cost of R1, 5million.

Photo:

0295 – Some of the livestock on auction

0261 – Premier Supra Mahumapelo and MEC Manketsi Tlhape addressing Farmers during Taung Livestock auction

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